

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A token dispensing apparatus comprising:
 - a token dispensing unit including a storage member for storing tokens;
 - a token selector unit for releasing a token from the storage member based on a user request;
 - a container dispensing unit for dispensing a container to receive the tokens including a container storage unit and a container separating unit for releasing a container from the storage member to a position to receive a released token;
 - a first sensor unit for sensing the number of tokens released;
 - a second sensor unit for sensing a container at the position to receive a released token;
 - a control unit for receiving an output from the first sensor unit and comparing it with a predetermined value representative of a desired capacity of the container to hold tokens and receiving an output from the second sensor unit to determine the existence of a container at the position to receive a released token to enable the token selector unit to release tokens, the control unit stops the dispensing of the tokens when a predetermined value representative of the desired capacity is reached and compares the predetermined value with the total number of tokens requested, when the total number tokens are greater than the predetermined value and the second sensor unit indicates the initial container is removed from the position to received released tokens, the control unit automatically activates the container separating unit to release a second container and the second sensor unit senses the second container, the control unit activates the token selector unit to continue to release tokens under the monitoring of the control unit.
2. The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 1 further including operator control unit for inputting an amount of tokens to be dispensed and a displaying unit for displaying the status of tokens in the container.
3. The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 2 further including a coin receiving unit and a banknote receiving unit for inputting monetary value in return for the amount of tokens to be dispensed.

4. A token dispensing device comprising:
 - a container dispensing unit which dispenses a container for receiving tokens to a dispensing section based on a dispensing signal;
 - a token dispensing unit which dispenses the tokens to the container located at the dispensing section;
 - an amount detecting unit which detects the amount of stored tokens in the container;
 - an overflow preventing unit which outputs a removing signal for removing the container which is located at the dispensing section and a stopping signal for the dispensing unit, when the amount detecting unit detects a predetermined amount of tokens in the container;
 - a container detecting unit which detects the container located at the dispensing section; and
 - a remaining amount dispensing unit which enables the token dispensing unit and the container dispensing unit based on a no-container signal from the container detecting unit.
5. The token dispensing device of Claim 4,
 - further includes a displaying unit for providing indicia,
 - indicating removal of the container based on the removing signal.
6. The token dispensing device of Claim 4, where
 - the amount detecting unit is a counter which counts tokens dispensed from the token dispensing unit.